

CITY OF SUNNYVALE

The Heart of Silicon Valleysm

456 WEST OLIVE AVENUE SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA 94086 (408) 730-7473

January 31, 2017

Glenn Hendricks
Mayor

Glen Martin
Regional Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
PO Box 92007
Los Angeles, CA 90009-2007

Gustav Larsson
Vice Mayor

Jim Griffith
Councilmember

Dear Administrator Martin:

Larry Klein
Councilmember

On behalf of the City of Sunnyvale, thank you for providing this opportunity to provide comments on the proposed amendment to the Class B airspace area at San Francisco International airport. The City appreciates the efforts of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to engage and work with impacted communities. The Sunnyvale City Council has a regular scheduled Council meeting the evening of Tuesday, January 31, 2017 and, therefore, will not have a representative available to attend the outreach meeting in San Jose. Please accept this letter in lieu of comments that evening.

Nancy Smith
Councilmember

Russ Melton
Councilmember

Michael S. Goldman
Councilmember

The City has a long-standing policy to preserve and enhance the quality of neighborhoods by maintaining or reducing the levels of noise generated by transportation facilities, including airports. The City is committed to advocating a regional, balanced solution that would help mitigate disproportionate noise over communities that don't have airports, such as Sunnyvale.

Specifically, the City of Sunnyvale supports recommendations and/or solutions that promote the following general provisions:

1. Maintaining a high level of safety for aircraft arriving and departing airports in the Bay Area.
2. Ensuring a robust community and agency engagement process prior to the implementation of any recommended solutions.
3. Monitoring and documentation of noise exposure by the FAA before and after feasible solutions are implemented.
4. Accounting for, and working towards alleviating, the noise impact on the ground of flights overhead.
 - a. Increasing the minimum altitudes of flights for entry into the final approach of area airports including SFO, SJC and OAK.
 - b. Implementation of ongoing compliance monitoring for any set of solutions implemented by the FAA.
5. Establishment of a single, regional point of contact (possibly the FAA) where residents can submit their airplane noise concerns.

With these general provisions in mind, the City of Sunnyvale, has the following comments regarding the current proposal to redesign Class B airspace at SFO:

1. **Graphic Depiction** – First, our sincere thanks to Rick Cote, FAA Support Specialist, for making the graphics for the public meeting available ahead of time. With regard to the graphics themselves, the underlying geographic map is lacking. For example, the word placement of “Sunnyvale” misleads the level of impact for our residents. We would, therefore, request a new graphic be created to show City limits or better points of reference, such as highways. Additionally, the graphic which overlays the current airspace against the proposed should also indicate altitude notations – perhaps in the corresponding colors to the current (red) and proposed (blue) designs.
2. **Community Engagement** – The City learned of this proposal via an alert from its aviation consultant. The FAA should be engaging communities directly or through offices of the local Congressional representatives.
3. **Comprehensive Impact** - The City strongly believes that any recommendation by the FAA which would result in sending flights above a community or changes to the airspace of a community – whether proposed for immediate, short-term or long-term implementation, should take into consideration the comprehensive noise burden assumed by that community, including commercial, general aviation and military flight operations.
4. **Vectoring Impact** – Most of the NextGen, GPS based, procedures have a 55% failure rate **causing more low altitude vectoring of arrival aircraft which brings noise and environmental impacts to noise sensitive residential areas**, affecting land use and promoting physiological problems. This failure rate is systemic to all the Metroplex projects and is the basis for Congressional funding discussion later this year under the FAA Revitalization Act.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. The City looks forward to working with the FAA on a regional solution to mitigate airplane noise – including changes to Class B airspace. Your leadership and engagement on this critical issue is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Glenn Hendricks
Mayor

cc: Congressman Ro Khanna
Chris Moylan, Ro Khanna's District Office Director
Supervisor Joe Simitian
Supervisor Dave Cortese
Palo Alto City Council
Mountain View City Council
Sunnyvale City Council
City Manager